

Desktop Buyer's Guide Today, desktop manufacturers emphasize desktop style by offering bright colors, trendy displays, and theme-based towers so that the computer looks attractive. If you use your computer for business or require fast resolution of major computer problems, consider purchasing an extended warranty or a service plan through a local dealer or third-party company. If you have decided that a desktop is most suited to your technology needs, the next step is to determine specific software, hardware, peripheral devices, and services to purchase, as well as where to buy the computer. For example, you might purchase computer furniture, an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) or surge protector (discussed later in the module), an external hard drive, a printer, a router, or a USB flash drive. Purchasing a desktop with the most memory, largest hard drive capacity, and fastest processor you can afford will help delay obsolescence. A touch screen monitor will enable you to interact with the latest operating systems and apps using touch input. If, however, you purchase a new desktop, chances are it will include the latest version of your preferred operating system (Windows, macOS, or Linux). If you are buying a new desktop, you have several purchasing options: buy directly from a school bookstore, a local computer dealer, or a large retail store, or order from a vendor by mail, phone, or the web. Each purchasing option has its advantages.